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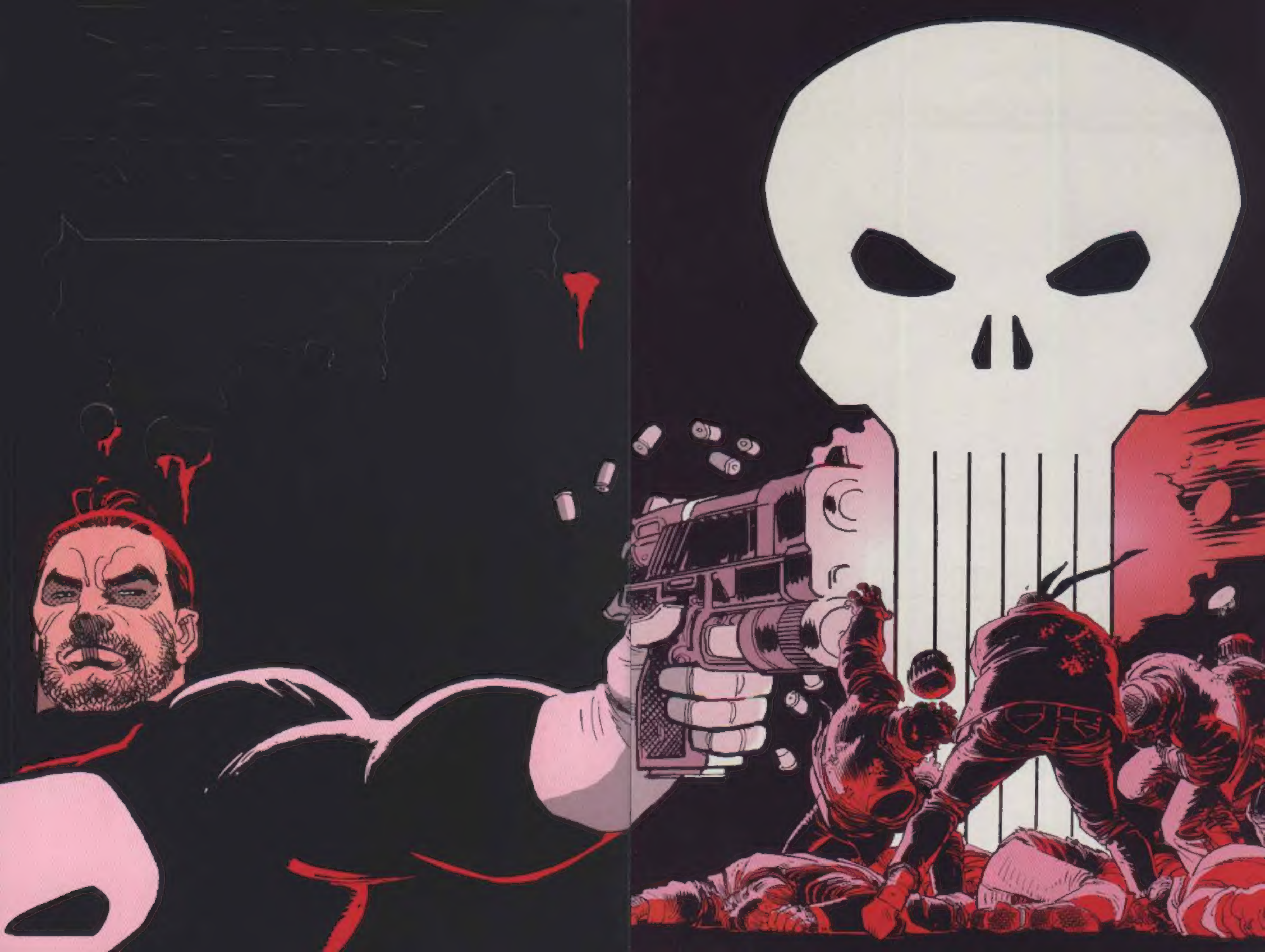
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# THE **FINISHER** WAR ZONE









WHEN MOBSTERS SLEW HIS FAMILY, FRANK CASTLE VOWED TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE AVENGING THEM! TRAINED AS A MARINE, AND EQUIPPED WITH A STATE-OF-THE-ART ARSENAL, HE NOW WAGES A ONE-MAN WAR ON CRIME! STAN LEE PRESENTS ...

# THE PUNISHER WAR ZONE

STAND BACK, MAN, OR I'LL WASTE HER!

I'M IN THE BUSHWICK SECTION OF BROOKLYN TO MEET AN INFORMANT.

THE MEET NEVER COMES OFF.

I'M WALKING INTO A BAD SITUATION GETTING WORSE EVERY SECOND.

MY SNITCH HAS GONE BALLISTIC ON ICE OR LIGHTNING OR SOME OTHER LAB JUNK.



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# ONLY THE DEAD KNOW BROOKLYN

DELBERT WAS USEFUL  
TO ME ONCE.

CHUCK DIXON - WRITER  
JOHN ROMITA JR. - PENCILER  
KLAUS JANSON - INKER  
JIM NOVAK - LETTERER  
GREGORY WRIGHT - COLORIST  
DON DALEY - EDITOR  
TOM D'FALCO - CHIEF

HE HEARD THINGS.  
HE HUNG WITH THE  
BOTTOM FEEDERS.

HE CAN HANG WITH  
THE DEVIL NOW.





YOU--

FREEZE  
RIGHT  
THERE.

YOU'D BETTER RADIO  
FOR HELP FOR YOUR  
PARTNER. HE'S IN  
A BAD WAY.

THAT'S MY PROBLEM. YOUR  
PROBLEM IS DROPPING THAT  
PIECE AND PUTTING YOUR  
HANDS UP.



DO IT NOW,  
MISTER, OR I  
NAIL YOU.



YEAH,  
WELL...



YOU DO WHAT  
YOU THINK IS  
RIGHT.

...BERT KNEW THE  
SHOOTER. BUT HE  
DIDN'T USE A NAME  
OR ANYTHING.

WHAT DID HE  
LOOK LIKE?

DID THE SHOOTER  
TALK TO YOU?

I...

I...

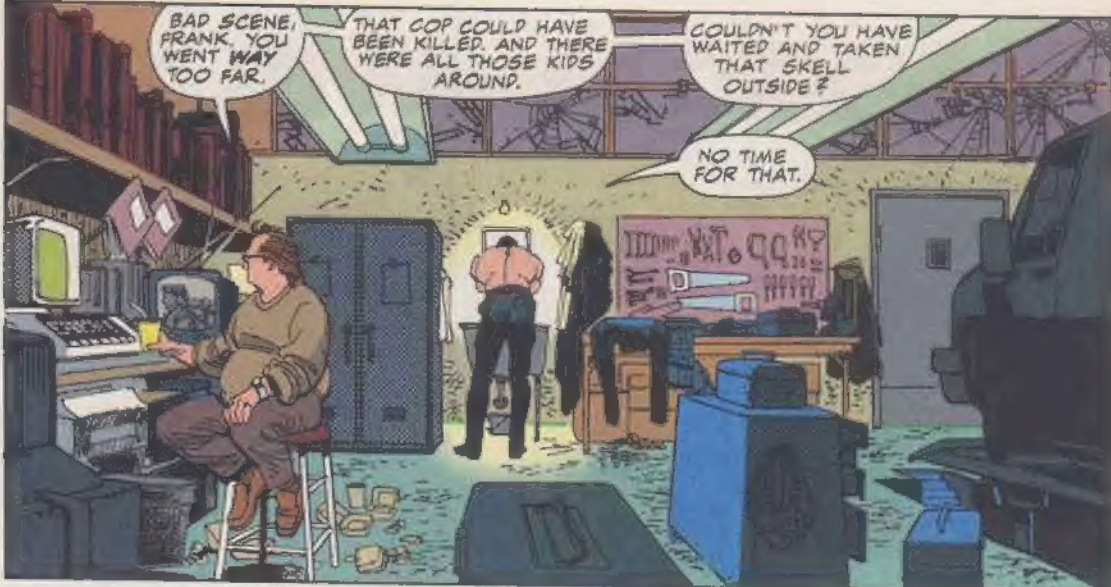
NO MORE  
QUESTIONS...



OFFICER COYLE,  
COULD IT HAVE BEEN  
THE MAN CALLED THE  
PUNISHER?

OFFICER  
COYLE...



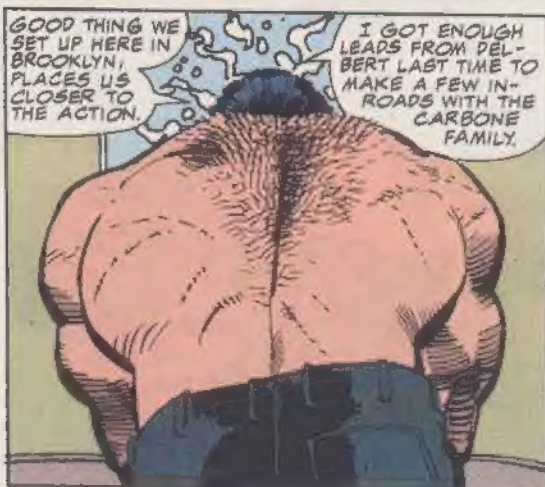


BAD SCENE, FRANK. YOU WENT WAY TOO FAR.

THAT COP COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED. AND THERE WERE ALL THOSE KIDS AROUND.

COULDN'T YOU HAVE WAITED AND TAKEN THAT SKELL OUTSIDE?

NO TIME FOR THAT.



GOOD THING WE SET UP HERE IN BROOKLYN. PLACES US CLOSER TO THE ACTION.

I GOT ENOUGH LEADS FROM DELBERT LAST TIME TO MAKE A FEW IN-ROADS WITH THE CARBONE FAMILY.



LISTEN TO ME, FRANK. YOU'RE NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP. YOU'RE PUSHING TOO HARD.

MAYBE YOUR JUDGMENT'S OFF.

I DEALT WITH IT. YOU WEREN'T THERE. IT TURNED OUT ALL RIGHT, RIGHT?



BUT WHAT IF IT DIDN'T OR WHAT IF NEXT TIME...

ARE YOU GOING TO START MONDAY MORNING QUARTER-BACKING ME, MICRO? MAYBE YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT ANYMORE.



€%\$#!

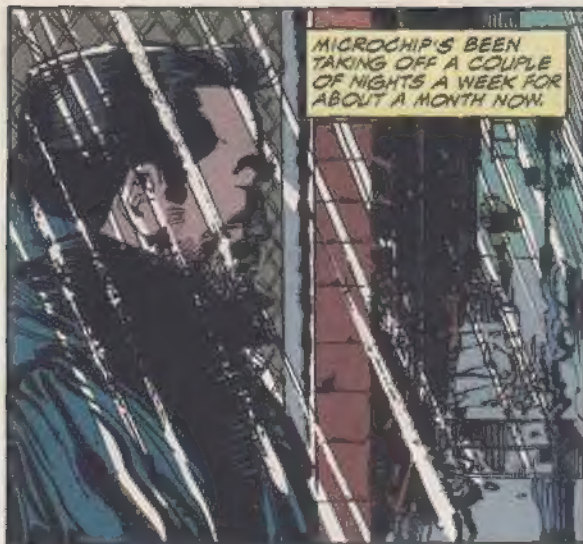
I DON'T NEED THIS, I'M GOING OUT.

WHERE? I MIGHT NEED YOU LATER.



JUST OUT. €€%, WE'RE NOT MARRIED, FRANK.





MICROCHIP'S BEEN  
TAKING OFF A COUPLE  
OF NIGHTS A WEEK FOR  
ABOUT A MONTH NOW.



I'M WONDERING IF HE'S  
LOST THE NERVE FOR  
THE WAR WE WAGE.

I'VE GOT TO  
KNOW IF I CAN  
TRUST HIM.



HE'S GOOD AT THIS.



HE CHECKS ALL  
AROUND FOR TAILS  
WITHOUT BEING  
OBVIOUS ABOUT IT.

1589



SOMETHING'S UP.  
HE FEELS IT.

HE'S GOING TO WAIT  
FOR THE NEXT TRAIN.



DAMN.



HE CAN'T KNOW IT'S ME.

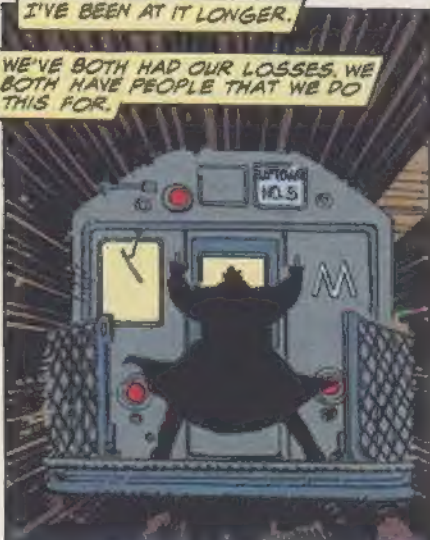


MICRO'S BEEN AT THIS SO LONG  
HE LOOKS FOR TROUBLE FROM  
ALL SIDES.



I'VE BEEN AT IT LONGER.

WE'VE BOTH HAD OUR LOSSES. WE  
BOTH HAVE PEOPLE THAT WE DO  
THIS FOR.



I HAVE MY  
FAMILY.



MICRO HAS  
HIS SON.

WE GET OFF  
IN MIDTOWN  
MANHATTAN.

THIS COULD BE ANOTHER  
RODGE. I WAIT OUTSIDE.



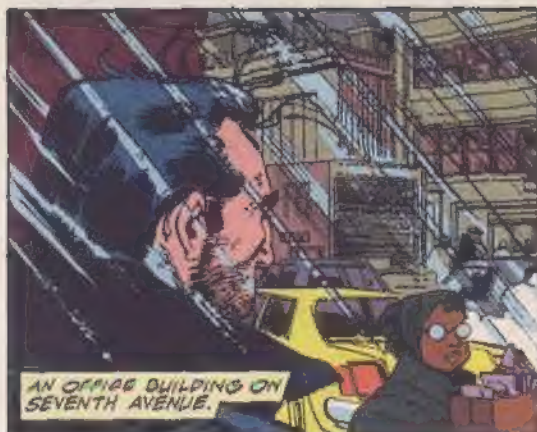
A DISGUISE.

THIS IS DEEP COVER  
FOR MICRO.

I'M LIKING THIS  
LESS AND LESS.







AN OFFICE BUILDING ON SEVENTH AVENUE.



FOURTH FLOOR.



AN OFFICE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE BUILDING.



NO NAME ON THE DOOR, JUST A NUMBER.

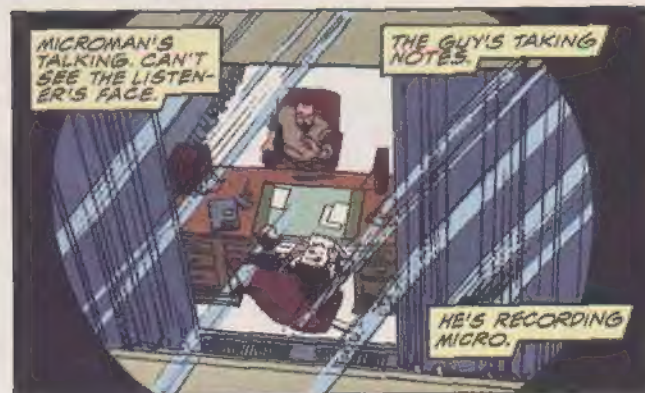


I DON'T LIKE MYSTERIES.

I LIKE BETRAYAL EVEN LESS.



OVERCAST, PERFECT DAY FOR PEEPING. I FIND THE OFFICE EASY.



MICROMAN'S TALKING. CAN'T SEE THE LISTENER'S FACE.

THE GUY'S TAKING NOTES.

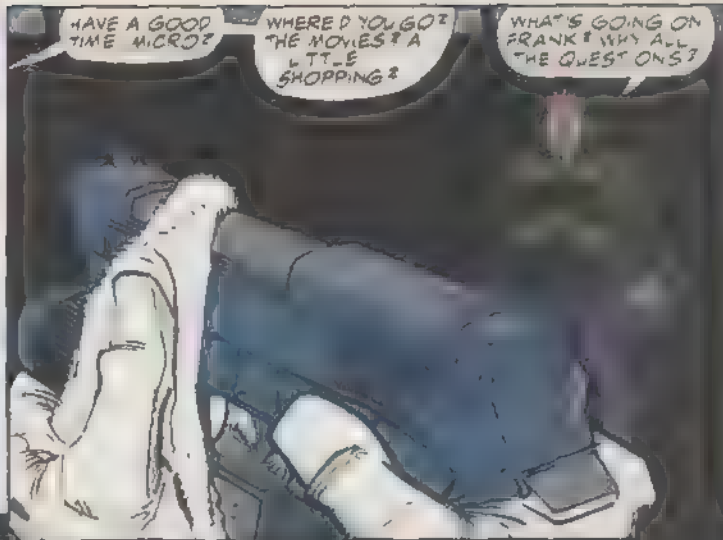
HE'S RECORDING MICRO.



CAN'T READ MICRO'S LIPS THROUGH THE PHONY BEARD.

#8476.





I FOLLOWED YOU, MICRO I SAW YOU AND YOUR BUDDY TALKING

WHAT DO YOU TALK ABOUT MICRO?



I NEED TO KNOW







A PSYCHOANALYST!  
A SHRINK! I GOT  
NOBODY ELSE TO  
TALK TO!

WHAT DO YOU  
TALK TO HIM  
ABOUT?

ABOUT  
MY SON

MY BOY

I STILL MISS HIM FRANK  
AND EVERYTHING WE DO TO  
PAY BACK THE KIND OF ANI-  
MALS WHO KILLED HIM  
HASN'T CHANGED THAT.

I CAN'T BURY IT LIKE YOU  
DO I HAVE TO TALK TO  
SOMEONE, AND YOU DON'T  
WANT TO HEAR IT!



DO YOU TELL HIM  
ABOUT ME?



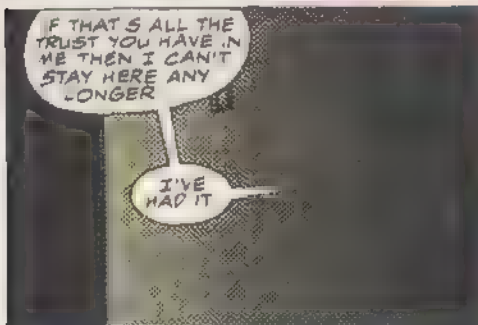
THAT'S ALL YOU CARE ABOUT,  
ISN'T IT? IT DOESN'T MATTER  
THAT I'M CLAWING MY GLTS  
OUT THAT I BLAME MYSELF  
EVERY DAY FOR WHAT  
HAPPENED

AS LONG AS I PROTECT  
THE SECRET OF THE  
PUNISHER, THAT'S ALL  
THAT MATTERS

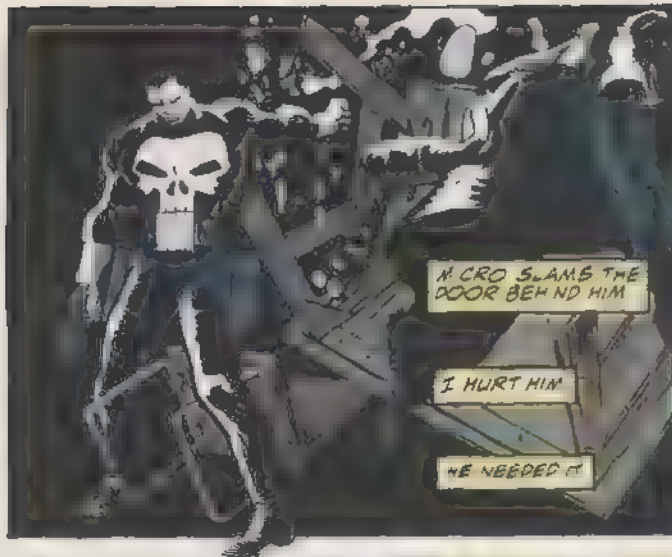


IF THAT'S ALL THE  
TRUST YOU HAVE IN  
ME THEN I CAN'T  
STAY HERE ANY  
LONGER

I'VE  
HAD IT



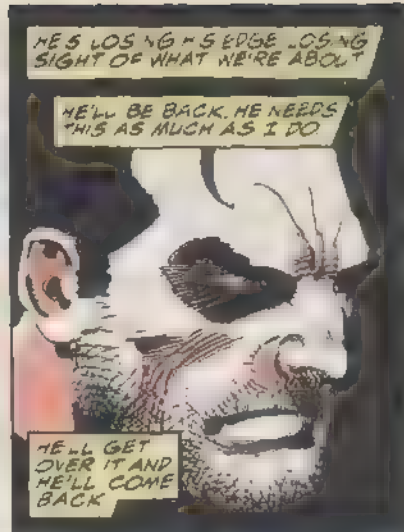




MACRO SLAMS THE  
DOOR BEHIND HIM

I HURT HIM

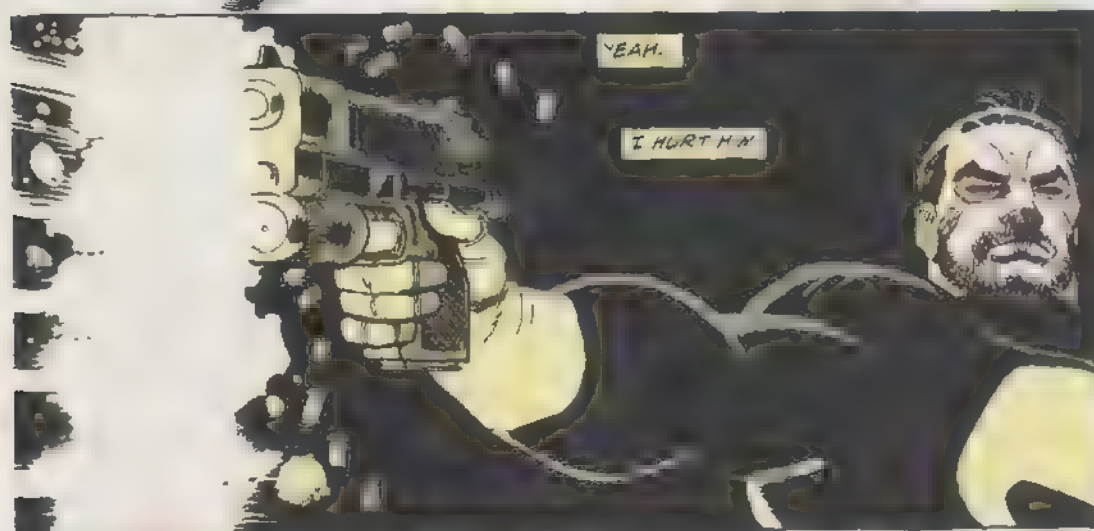
HE NEEDED IT



HE'S LOSING HIS EDGE LOSING  
SIGHT OF WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

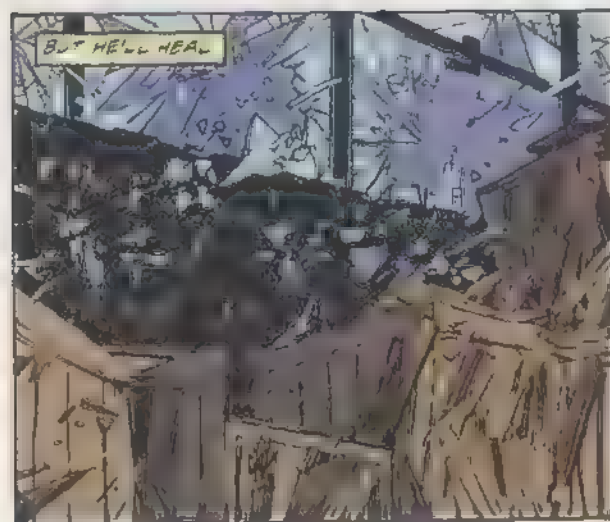
HE'LL BE BACK. HE NEEDS  
THIS AS MUCH AS I DO

HE'LL GET  
OVER IT AND  
HE'LL COME  
BACK

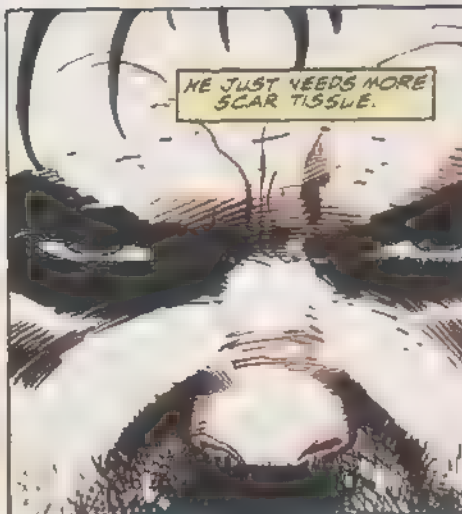


YEAH.

I HURT HIM



BUT HE'LL HEAL



HE JUST NEEDS MORE  
SCAR TISSUE.



THE REPUBLIC OF  
YARITAGUA, OFF  
THE CARIBBEAN  
COAST OF  
COLOMBIA

DON'T BE  
FRIGHTENED MI HIJO.  
TELL ME WHAT HAP-  
PENED YESTERDAY AT  
EL PRESIDENTE'S  
VILLA

JUST TELL ME  
THE TRUTH JUST  
THE WAY YOU  
SAW IT.

SI, MI JEFE

I WAS SERVING  
IN THE DEMOCRATIC  
GUARD, THE BODY-  
GUARDS FOR OUR  
VALIANT  
PRESIDENTE

ESCORTING HIM TO  
HIS ESTANCIA IN THE  
SIERRA OSCURA

THE THREATS FROM  
THE REBELS HAVE BEEN  
MANY LATELY

"WE THOUGHT WE WERE  
PREPARED FOR ANY KIND  
OF ATTACK

"BUT NEVER FOR WHAT  
WAS TO COME NEXT

"A MASSACRE  
A SLAUGHTER

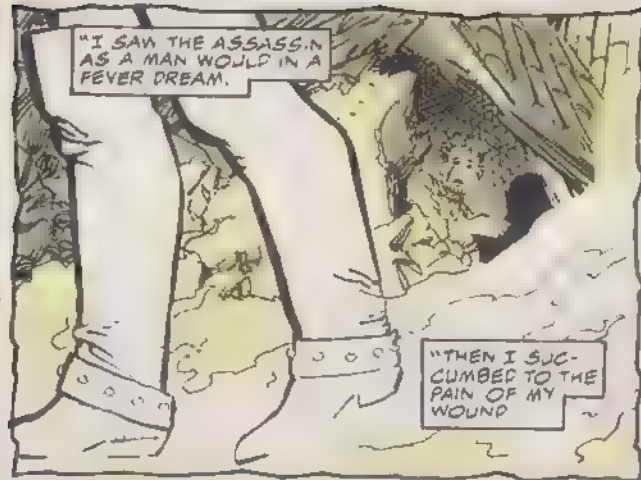
"THE ASSAULT SEEMED TO COME  
FROM EVERYWHERE AT ONCE

"IN MOMENTS, EVERY  
SOLDIER WAS DEAD  
AND EL PRESIDENTE  
WITH THEM

"AND ALL WAS THE  
WORK OF ONE MAN.

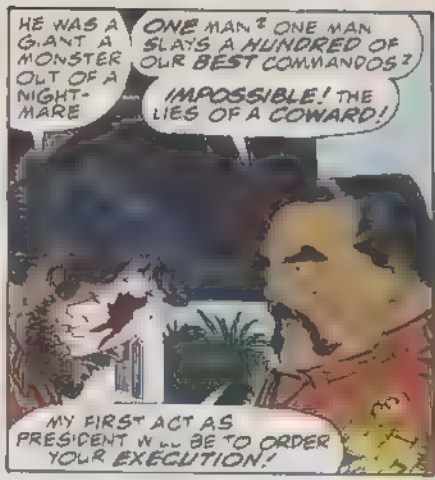
"JUST ONE MAN,  
GENERAL





"I SAW THE ASSASSIN  
AS A MAN WOULD IN A  
FEVER DREAM.

"THEN I SUC-  
CUMBED TO THE  
PAIN OF MY  
WOUND

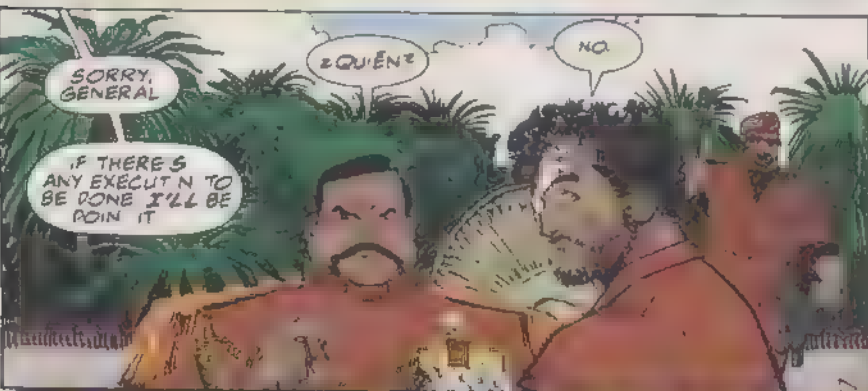


HE WAS A  
GIANT A  
MONSTER  
OUT OF A  
NIGHT-  
MARE

ONE MAN? ONE MAN  
SLAYS A HUNDRED OF  
OUR BEST COMMANDOS?

IMPOSSIBLE! THE  
LIES OF A COWARD!

MY FIRST ACT AS  
PRESIDENT WILL BE TO ORDER  
YOUR EXECUTION!



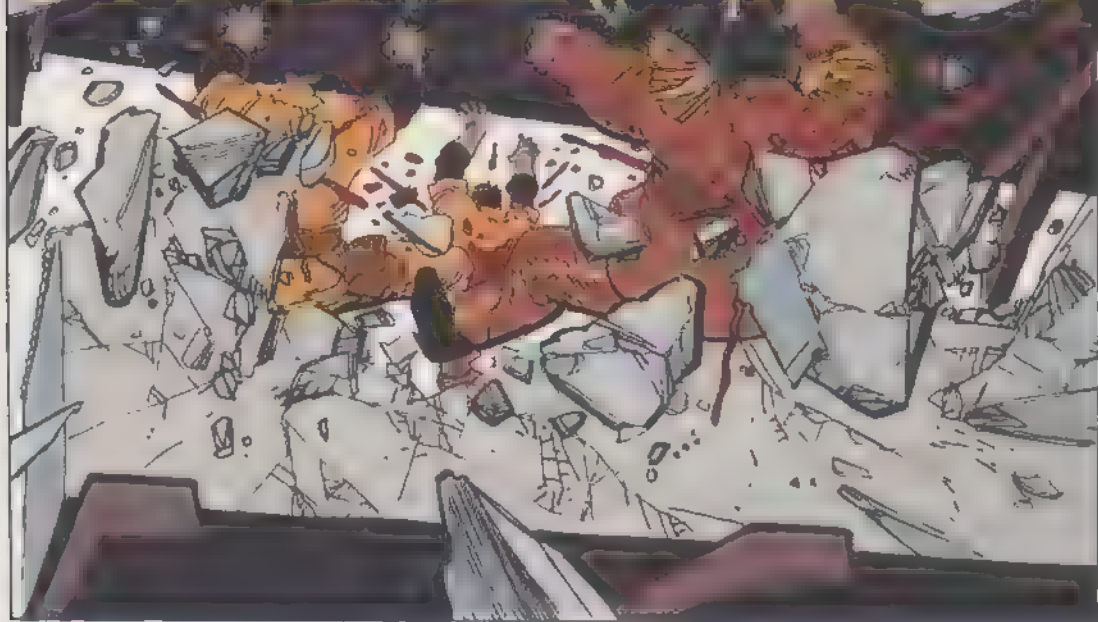
SORRY,  
GENERAL

EQUENZ

NO

IF THERE'S  
ANY EXECUT N TO  
BE DONE I'LL BE  
DOIN IT

**BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!**







HUH.

POOR SUCKER'S FIRST ACT AS PRESIDENT IS HIS OWN STATE FUNERAL

OH AND ONE MAN CAN KILL A HUNDRED ...WHEN THE MAN'S NAME IS SHOTGUN.

MAKE THAT A HUNDRED AND THREE.



I'M AWAKE BEFORE THE ALARM CLOCK BUZZES

MICRO? YOU HERE?



HE MUST HAVE RUN OUT FOR SOMETHING

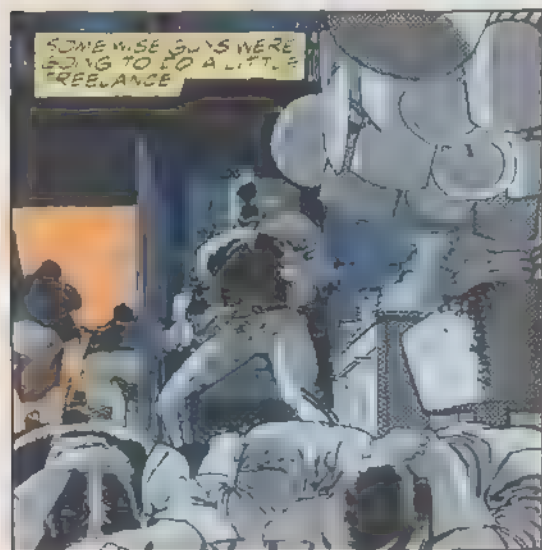
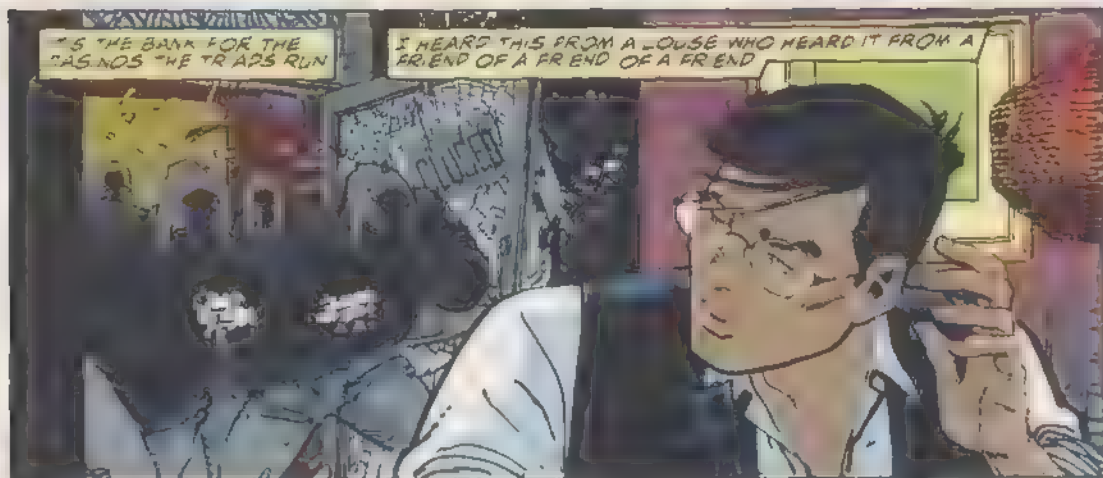
MICRO!

HE'LL BE BACK I KNOW HE'LL BE BACK



TIME TO GO TO WORK









A GOOD NIGHT WILL FIND  
A HUNDRED GRAND IN THE  
COUNTING ROOM

THIS WAS A VERY  
GOOD NIGHT



THESE GUYS ARE GOOD

IN AND OUT IN  
LESS TIME THAN  
IT TAKES TO PICK  
UP AN ORDER OF  
LO MEIN

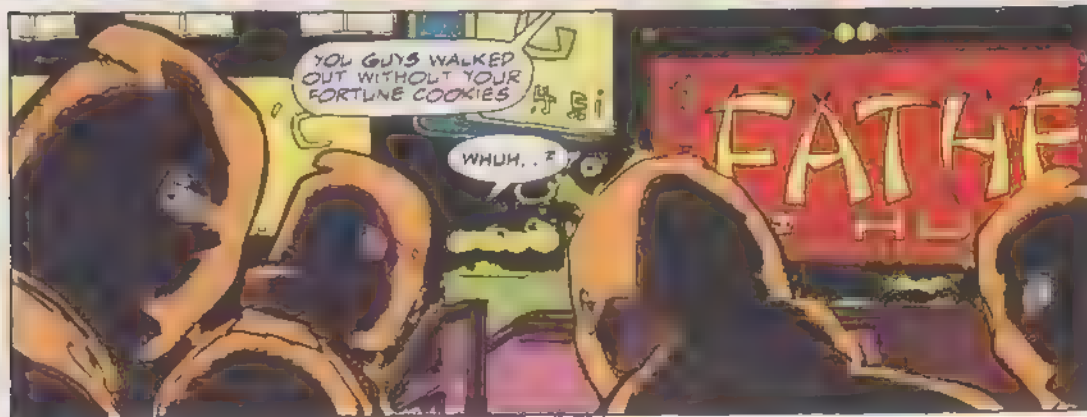


GOT THE GETAWAY CAR  
REVVED UP OUT FRONT  
AND THE SWITCH CAR  
THREE BLOCKS AWAY.



BUT THEN THINGS START  
GOING BAD

ARNIE ?




YOU GUYS WALKED  
OUT WITHOUT YOUR  
FORTUNE COOKIES

WHUH. ?

FATHE





I'M NOT PLAYING  
WITH THESE GUYS.

THEY'RE PACKING HEAVY  
AND THEY'RE ON THAT  
RUSH A HOLDUP  
GIVES YOU.

I TAKE 'EM  
DOWN HARD

MAYBE A LITTLE  
TOO HARD.

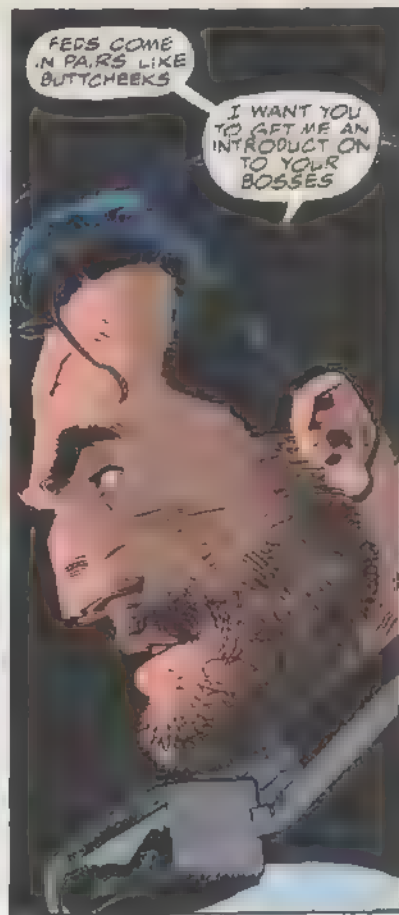
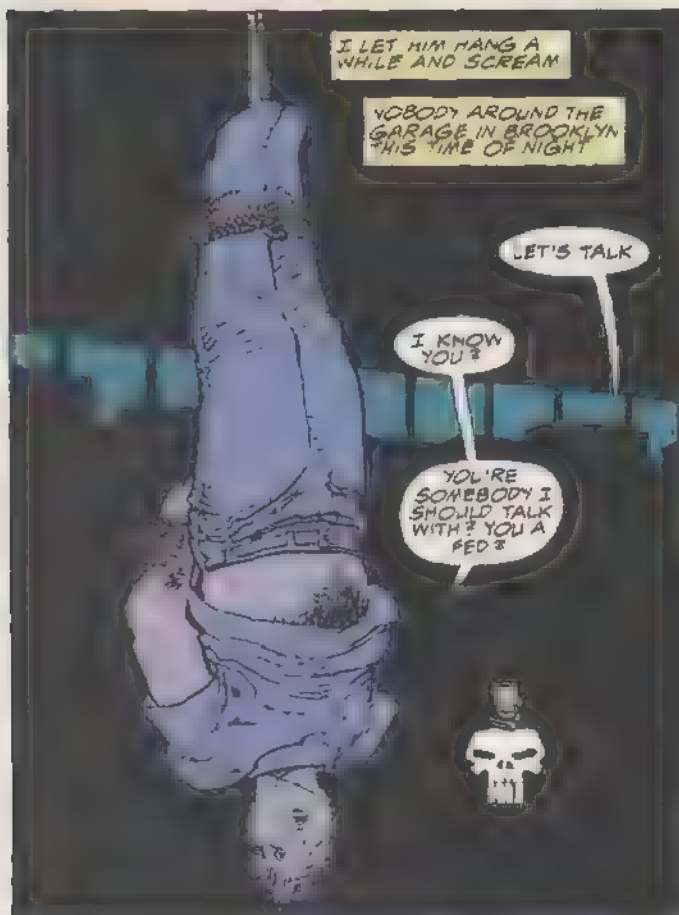
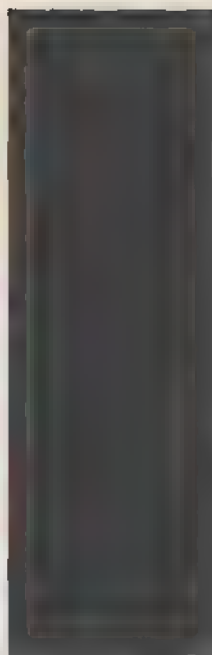
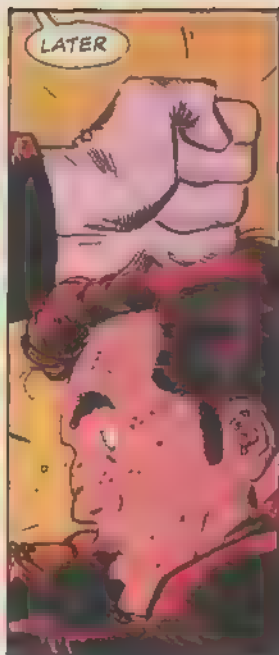
BUT I'M TRYING TO  
MAKE A POINT.

JEEZE  
JEEZE  
JEEZE

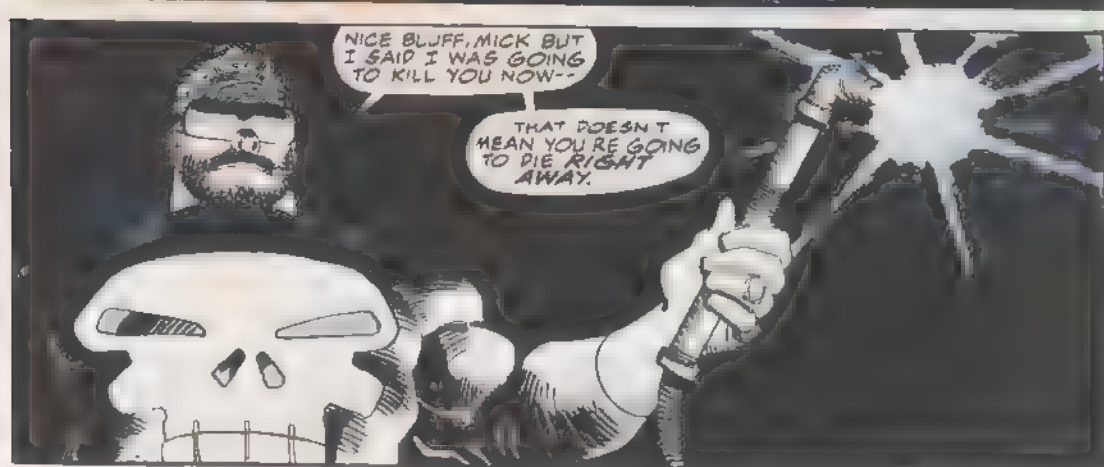
JEEZE!

ADRENALINE AND FEAR MIXED WITH  
A FEW REDS AND FOUR ROSES















I TRUST HIM AS FAR AS  
I CAN THROW HIM

BUT HE KNOWS IF HE RATS  
ME OUT I'LL KILL HIM

IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TO  
BE ALL BAD FOR HIM

HE'S A LOW MAN IN THE CARBONE  
OUTFIT HE'S GOT NOWHERE TO  
GO BUT UP

BRINGING!

YEAH?

MICKEY, THIS IS  
ANDY CALABRESE

YEAH,  
ANDY?

WE GOT A PROBLEM NICO,  
ARNIE, FREDDIE, AND TONY  
THE TUNA WERE FOUND  
SHOT TO DEATH ON  
MULBERRY THEY WERE  
PULLIN' DOWN A SCORE

YOU KNOW ANYTHIN'  
ABOUT THAT?

NO WAY, ANDY I  
JUST NOW GOT BACK  
FROM MY MOTHER'S  
IN TRENTON

OKAY

WELL, THIS LEAVES US SHORT-  
HANDED I NEED SOME NEW  
GUYS FOR A THING THAT'S  
COMIN' UP

YOU KNOW ANY-  
BODY LOOKIN'  
FOR WORK?

YEAH,  
SURE

I KNOW  
A GUY

FRANKIE'S REC ROOM BAY  
RIDGE IN BROOKLYN

JULIUS IS ALL IN MY HAIR  
OVER THIS. WHY'D THESE  
MOOKS GO DO SOMETHIN'  
THIS DUMB? YOU CALLED  
A FEW GUYS, ANDY?

I TOLD YOU I DID  
SAL. WE'LL COVER  
THINGS, OKAY?

'SCUSE ME,  
MR CARBONE.  
MICKY  
FONDOZZI'S  
HERE

SEND  
HIM IN

YOU GET US SOME  
HELP, MICKY?

SURE DID,  
ANDY MR  
CARBONE

MEET  
JOHNNY  
TOWER

HE'S A COUSIN  
A' MINE FROM  
KANSAS CITY.

NEXT ISSUE:  
BLOOD IN  
THE WATER!



# NEXT

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